

# Multicore Aware Data Transmission Middleware (MDTM)

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## 1. Summary

To date the project has achieved all of its targets for this reporting period. These include,

- Completion of thread/flow management module
- Completion of phase-I preprocessing module
- Completion of MDTM middleware APIs
- Completion of multicore system profiling module
- Completion of topology-based resource scheduler
- Completion of interrupt affinity for network IO
- Integration of MDTM middleware library and data transfer application
- Establishment of collaborating environment including Redmine, GIT, Share point and pubic website

The weekly work meeting was well attended by members from across the DOE national laboratories, including the BNL and FNAL. The project is currently moving toward delivering the first release in late July 2014.

## 2. Project Overview

## 2.1. The problem

Multicore and manycore have become the norm for high-performance computing. These new architectures provide advanced features that can be exploited to design and implement a new generation of high-performance data movement tools. To date, numerous efforts have been made to exploit multicore parallelism to speed up data transfer performance. However, existing data movement tools are still bound by major inefficiencies when running on multicore systems for the following reasons:

- Existing data transfer tools are unable to fully and efficiently exploit multicore hardware under the default OS support, especially on NUMA systems.
- The disconnection between software and multicore hardware renders network I/O processing on multicore systems inefficient.
- On NUMA systems, the performance gap between disk and networking devices cannot be effectively narrowed or hidden under the default OS support.
- Data transfer tools receive only best-effort handling for their process threads. There is no differentiation in service based on transfer characteristics, thread locality needs, or prioritization requirements.

These inefficiencies are fundamental and common problems that data movement tools will inevitably encounter when running on multicore systems. These inefficiencies will ultimately result in performance bottlenecks on the end systems. Such end system performance bottlenecks also impede the effective use of advanced networks. The DOE ANI (advanced network initiative) deployed 100-gigabit WAN testbed in support of the next-generation distributed extreme-scale data movement. Resolving performance issues within computer hosts is becoming the critical element within the end-to-end paradigm of the distributed extreme-scale data movement.

#### 2.2. Our solution: a Multicore-Aware Data Transfer Middleware (MDTM)

MDTM aims to accelerate data movement toolkits at multicore systems. Essentially, MDTM consists of two research components (Figure 1):

- MDTM data transfer applications/tools research and development
- MDTM middleware research and development

For the MDTM project, we plan to achieve the following research goals:

- To develop and optimize ultra high-speed data transfer applications/tools on modern multi-core systems.
- To investigate, design, and implement generic middleware mechanisms to enable extreme-scale data movement tools to exploit the multicore hardware fully and efficiently, especially on NUMA system.

 To deploy, test, and comprehensively evaluate the developed middleware/applications, on advanced multicore hosts, and over 100Gbps+ testbed networks.

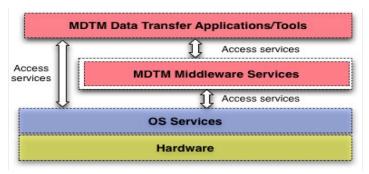
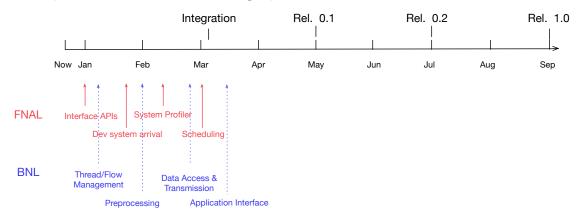


Figure 1. MDTM Software Architecture

MDTM will be deployed in DOE data transfer nodes (http://fasterdata.es.net/science-dmz/DTN/).

## 2.3. Major Milestones

The major milestones of the MDTM project are set as follows.



## 3. Accomplishments

## 3.1. Application

#### 3.1.1. Major Activity and Progress

Thread/flow management module (completed). Parallel threads can be created and executed for both storage and network devices. Among these threads, communication and synchronization are implemented to ensure the orderly execution. Buffer memory can be created to ensure the data exchanged between threads (e.g., storage reader and network sender, using a producer-consumer model). In addition, we can automatically creating multiple threads based on capacity of NICs and storage devices, e.g., for more processing threads needed for high-capacity devices.

**Preprocessing module (phase I completed).** In our design, we group the requested files by devices (HDDs, SDDs, hardware/software RAID, SAN, etc), so that the data transfer application can maximize the locality of access. Currently, the basic function of grouping is implemented. After that, we can now dynamically creating threads for groups (one or multiple threads for each group, also based on the type and capacity of devices).

An additional work we have done is to create a system configuration step (and configuration file). The configuration file lists information on the device type, mappings (logical to physical devices), and capacity. Our application can read, parse, and analyze the devices, and then using this information to dynamically create threads.

#### 3.1.2. Significant Results

**Parallel storage threads.** In the BBCP software framework, multiple storage threads are created to execute parallel I/O on different storage devices.

**Parallel network threads.** In the BBCP software framework, multiple network threads are created to execute parallel transmission.

**Grouping of files:** The application can create multiple groups of requests, and schedule different threads for them.

**MDTM Application protocols for client/server:** We specify and verify the protocols between the MDTM application client and server. The protocols determine the behavior of the participants in various stages, including the initialization, preprocessing, and thread/flow management. The interaction in the preprocessing stage is shown below.

**System Configurations:** The application can obtain device mapping information from system configuration file provided by user. An example configuration file is in Appendix A.

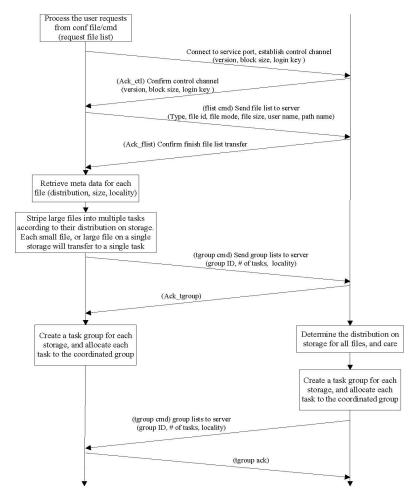


Figure 2. MTDM application protocol in the preprocessing stage

#### 3.2. Middleware

#### 3.2.1. Major Activities and Progress

**MDTM middleware APIs:** This part was successfully completed and has already been validated by the MDTM application during the integration phase. Those APIs was carefully designed to provide easy to use interfaces for any applications that need to leverage the multicore and NUMA architectures to achieve high performance in terms of throughput and latency. They contain rich functions, which fall into four categories: system information, thread management, IO interrupt management and utilities. Those APIs hide all multicore system caveats from applications, which can focus on their own business logic.

System profiling module: This part was successfully completed and already used by the MDTM application to create system table. The profiling module intensively interacts with the Linux kernel services like *procfs*, *sysfs*, device drivers, virtual file system and etc. With that profound Linux kernel knowledge, the profiling module retrieves valuable system information including components in place (CPUs, NUMA nodes, memories, PCI devices, NIC, disk), system topology (affinity and distances between components), working status (component identity and activity), metrics (IO bandwidth and disk capacity) and etc. Another key implementation in the profiling module is the so-called "MDTM tree" which is used to store and organize pieces of scattered system information. With the well-structured "MDTM tree", any request for system information from application can be served in a very efficient and complete way. In addition, the profiling module is also scalable by nature since the tree can be easily extended to cover more information interested in the future.

**Topology based resource scheduler:** This part was successfully completed and deployed in the MDTM application. The research work carried here shows the locality in terms of CPUs, IOs and threads obviously improves applications' performance over multicore system since it bridges the gap between conventional Linux scheduler and modern multicore architectures. Upon receiving service requests from MDTM application threads like the Readers, Writers, Receivers and Senders, the MDTM scheduler should looks for and deploys those threads to CPUs that are close in distance to storage disks and network interfaces in order to maximize the data throughput. In addition, working loads and traffic conditions between system components especially the NUMA nodes also affect the overall performance. The MDTM scheduler takes initiatives to abstract the complicated system interconnection as a graph and associates each connection with a cost value that reflects scheduling factors like distance, traffic condition and etc. By applying searching algorithms like Dijkstra's algorithm, the lowest cost path from specific CPUs to the targeted NIC/Disks is found and therefore be used as the candidates to run Reader/Writer/Sender/Receiver threads.

**Interrupt affinity:** This part was successfully completed for network adapters. Multiple queue (MQ) and RSS are widely used in today's high-speed network adapters. The MDTM middleware leverages the RSS and flow director by setting the affinity of specific data flow to its associated application thread. Therefore it improves the throughput and maximizes the parallel processing of the network traffic.

#### 3.2.2. Significant Results

Some major results are reported here. More results can be found in the Appendix.

**System Topology Tree:** MDTM profiling module creates an internal MDTM tree that contains the topology and detailed information of the multicore system. Using MDTM API function generates *Figure 3*, which shows the topology tree of our testing system with eight cores, two NUMA nodes, two network adapters and two disks.

**CPU and Device Affinity:** *Figure 4* shows the affinity of the testing system generated and output by the MDTM profiling module.

**MDTM Scheduling:** *Figure 5* presents the output of MDTM scheduler from traversing the testing system. The cost values to specific IO devices are calculated and potential CPUs are found to running the thread dealing with data transferring between those devices.

**Interrupt Affinity:** *Figure 6* shows the result of interrupt affinity assignment by the MDTM middleware for the network interface adaptor on the testing system. The MDTM middle optimizes the traffic throughput by leveraging the RSS and associate receiving queues to CPUs generating the traffic flows.

Figure 3. System Topology Tree

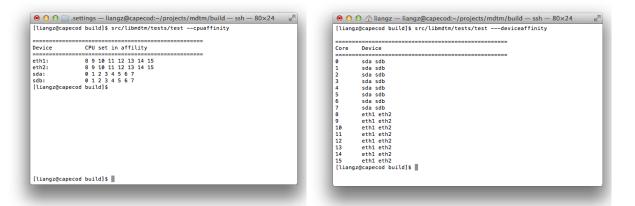


Figure 4. CPU and Device Affinity

```
| Compage | Comp
```

Figure 5. Scheduling Result

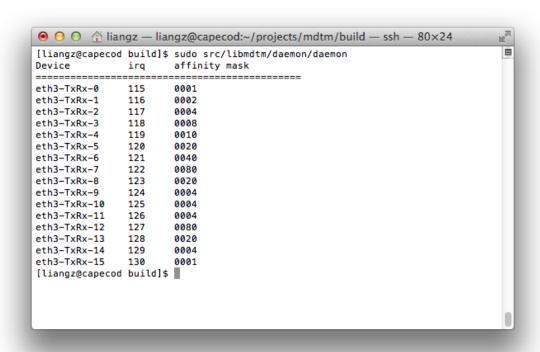


Figure 6. Interrupt Affinity

### 3.3. Integration

We have implemented the MDTM application modules in the BBCP software framework. The adoption of this framework is due to several reasons. First, BBCP have a clean multi-threaded design, and it allows us to dynamically add network and storage threads. Second, BBCP takes an object-oriented C++ implementation, and it has good software modularity. We can then conveniently add our function modules into the framework. Third, we hope to evaluate our MDTM application using standard software tools such as BBCP and GridFTP. Thus it is a good idea to start our implementation with it. In the future, we also plan to integrate the MDTM application with our previous RFTP software toolkit.

After our implementation, we can then have a sample test run of it. Below we show the steps of an example test scenario, just to demonstrate the basic functions of the current software version.

- 1) Control agent get configuration information from command line parameters.
- 2) Control agent forks a source node and a sink node, and these two processes log onto the source and sink sides using ssh respectively.
- 3) Both source and sink nodes call *mdtmApp\_Init()* interface to get system topology and save it into a tree structure. This step will call the MDTM middleware interface mdtm\_init(), which will initialize the mdtm

middleware, and *mdtm\_create\_sys\_info(mdtm\_node\_t\* tree)* to get system topology tree.

```
*************
Source side I/O device affinity list
eth7:
             0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
mlx4_0:
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
eth0:
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
eth1:
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
sdv:
eth8:
              8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
ib1:
              8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
mlx4_1:
              8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
              16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
sdax:
eth4:
              16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
             16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
eth5:
             16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63
mlx4_2:
eth6:
ib2:
              24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63
mlx4_3:
             24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63
eth7:
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
ib0:
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
mlx4 0:
eth0:
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
eth1:
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
              0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
sdv:
eth8:
              8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
ib1:
              8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
mlx4_1:
             8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47
              16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
sdax:
eth4:
              16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
              16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
eth5:
             16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55
mlx4 2:
eth6:
             24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63
              24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63
ib2:
mlx4 3:
              24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63
```

4) The source node generates file groups according to the physical storage device they reside on, and then, allocate reader/sender threads according to storage/network device type and the current capacity. At last, the source node will send the file grouping and thread allocation result to the sink node with "flist" command in mdtmApp protocol.

```
File grouping result:
TaskGroup 16768 on sdy
File 1: /data/node0/Sfile0
File 2: /data/node0/hundredg0
TaskGroup 17168 on sdax
File 1: /data/node2/Sfile2
File 2: /data/node2/hundredg2
```

5) The sink node agrees on the grouping and allocation result, and fork one process to handle each individual task group, this also happens on the source node. The task group process then creates multiple storage I/O and network I/O threads accordingly, and all the I/O threads will be bind to a specific CPU core using the mdtm middleware interface mdtm\_schedule\_threads(mdtm\_thread\_desc\_t \*desc, int thread\_num).

6) Multiple task groups will be transferred simultaneously. Each task group process with "getg" command in mdtmApp protocol to request files in specific task group, and "get" command to request a particular file.

```
--> Start to transfer task group 16768
mdtmApp: Creating /dev/null/Sfile0
Device CPU:Cost
--> Start to transfer task group 17168
mdtmApp: Creating /dev/null/Sfile2
```

#### 3.4. Collaborating Environment

#### 3.4.1. Major Activities and Progress

To coordinate the development work from across the two remote labs, BNL and FNAL, we established a set of tools and environment to share information and synchronize our progress.

**Autotools:** This part was successfully completed. The GNU Autotools are standard software development tool set. They have been established before the coding work started.

**RedMine/GIT:** This part was successfully completed. The MDTM project used RedMind and GIT as the software version control tools.

**Sharepoint and Public website:** This part was successfully completed. The MDTM project took use of the Sharepoint and public website to share documents and release project information.

#### 3.4.2. Significant Results

See Appendix C to see the snapshot of the collaborating Environment.

## 4. Next Steps

The application development team continues their software implementation currently, and has identified several tasks to be completed in the near future. The following ones are the most important tasks to be completed in two months (by the end of May, 2014).

- Multi-rail parallel data transfer (Part of transmission/access module)
  - Mapping multiple groups of files to parallel network interfaces
  - Locality and NUMA affinity are considered
  - Load-balancing between groups and multiple interfaces
- Optimization of file transfer (Part of preprocessing module)
  - Finding the location of files in storage systems
  - Sorting/reordering the files for better storage access performance
  - LVM (logical volume management) of Linux: considering how to handle files spanning across multiple physical disks
- Design of test scenarios, including different storage devices, multiple NICs, different types of workloads (Also part of interface module)

In the next step, MDTM middleware is planned to,

- Integrate the real-time status of the system devices into the scheduling algorithm. The current cost function mainly counts on the topology like distance information. We are working on adding the real-time status like CPU loading, memory usage, IO traffic conditions and etc. to make the scheduling decision more complete and accurate.
- Implement the monitor features that enable the end users to have a clear vision of the underlying activity and manage the middleware and applications in an easy way.

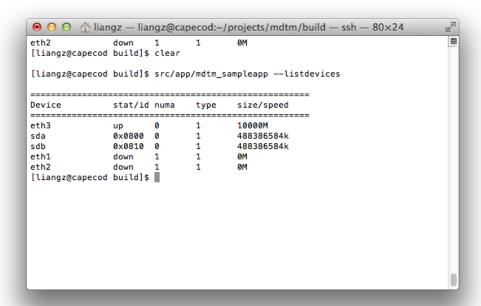
## **Appendix A: MDTM Application Example Configuration File**

The example file below shows the syntax of the configuration file, as well as the device mapping information on one of our testbed NUMA host.

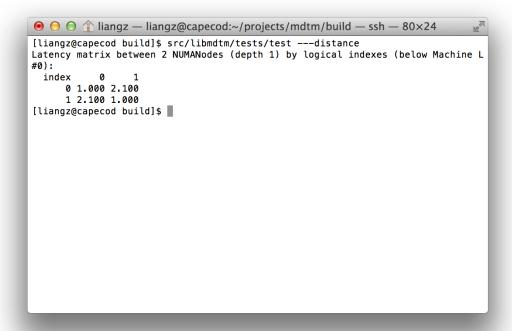
```
# MDTMApp configuration file syntax
# Storage: [device purpose] [major] [minor] [logical name] [physical name] [storage type] <bandwidth capacity> # Network: [device purpose] [local IP address] [interface name] [network type] <bandwidth capcacity>
stor 0
stor 65
              5 zero zero mem
128 sdy sdy ssd
                                                100
                                                 10
stor 67
              16
                      sdax
                               sdax
                                       ssd
                                                 10
stor 67
               32
                       sday
                               ib1
                                                 40
stor 8
stor 8
                       sda1
                               sda
                                        hdd
                       sda2
                                sda
                                        hdd
               3
                       sda3
                               sda
                                        hdd
stor 65
              177
                       sdab1 sdab
                                        hdd
stor 65
             178
                       sdab2 sdab
stor 65
              179
                       sdab3 sdab
                      md1
                                        sraid1
stor
                               md1
       9
                2
                      md2
                               md2
                                        sraid1
stor
                0
                               md0
                                       sraid1
stor
                      md0
       130.245.191.122 eth0 eth 1
192.168.13.11 eth4 roce 40
net
net
       192.168.14.11 eth6 roce 40
192.168.150.11 ib0 ib 56
net
net
```

## **Appendix B: MDTM Middleware Example Outputs**

**Devices Status:** MDTM system profiling module outputs the devices status.



**NUMA Node Distances:** MDTM profiling module outputs the NUMA node distances.

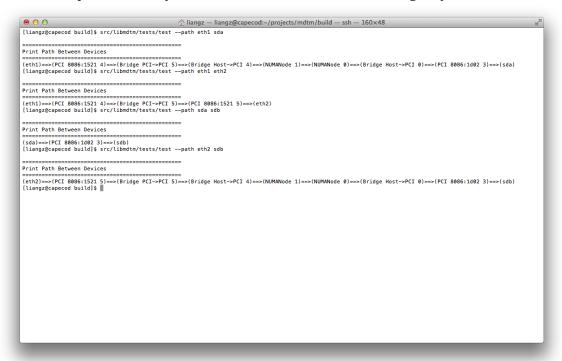


**Scheduling and Binding CPU:** MDTM scheduler finds the CPU with lowest cost and binds the target thread to that CPU.

```
☆ liangz — liangz@capecod:~/projects/mdtm/build — ssh — 94×26

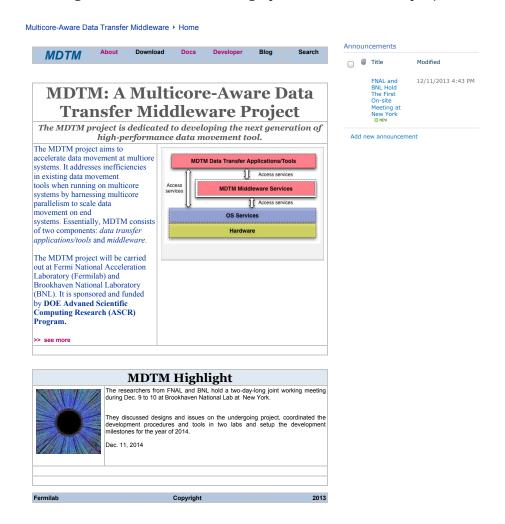
Scheduling from one device
Device CPU:Cost
        0:27 1:27 2:27 3:27 4:27 5:27 6:27 7:27 8:6 9:6 10:6 11:6 12:6 13:6 14:6 15:6
eth1
CPUs
       Costs Path
                (Core 8)==>(Socket 1)==>(NUMANode 1)==>(Bridge Host->PCI 4)==>(Bridge PCI->PCI
8
         6
5)==>(PCI 8086:1521 4)==>(eth1)
                (Core 9)==>(Socket 1)==>(NUMANode 1)==>(Bridge Host->PCI 4)==>(Bridge PCI->PCI
5)==>(PCI 8086:1521 4)==>(eth1)
               (Core 10)==>(Socket 1)==>(NUMANode 1)==>(Bridge Host->PCI 4)==>(Bridge PCI->PC
I 5)==>(PCI 8086:1521 4)==>(eth1)
               (Core 11)==>(Socket 1)==>(NUMANode 1)==>(Bridge Host->PCI 4)==>(Bridge PCI->PC
I 5)==>(PCI 8086:1521 4)==>(eth1)
                (Core 12) ==> (Socket 1) ==> (NUMANode 1) ==> (Bridge Host->PCI 4) ==> (Bridge PCI->PC
I 5)==>(PCI 8086:1521 4)==>(eth1)
                (Core 13)==>(Socket 1)==>(NUMANode 1)==>(Bridge Host->PCI 4)==>(Bridge PCI->PC
I 5)==>(PCI 8086:1521 4)==>(eth1)
               (Core 14)==>(Socket 1)==>(NUMANode 1)==>(Bridge Host->PCI 4)==>(Bridge PCI->PC
I 5)==>(PCI 8086:1521 4)==>(eth1)
               (Core 15)==>(Socket 1)==>(NUMANode 1)==>(Bridge Host->PCI 4)==>(Bridge PCI->PC
        6
I 5)==>(PCI 8086:1521 4)==>(eth1)
CPU Affinity:
       CPU 9 is set
[liangz@capecod build]$
```

**Path Finding between Any Devices:** MDTM scheduler has the intelligence to find the internal path from any device to another device in the target system.

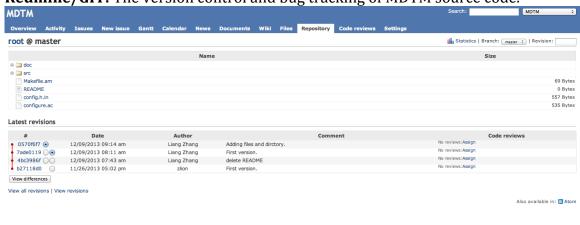


## **Appendix C: MDTM Collaborating Environment**

**SharePoint:** Sharing documents and releasing updates of the MDTM project.



**Redmine/GIT:** The version control and bug tracking of MDTM source code.



## **Appendix D: MDTM Library API Functions**

#### **Public Member Functions**

```
mdtm_sched_spt (const mdtm_node_t *mdtm_tree)
~mdtm_sched_spt ()
int mdtm_sched_cpu (char *srcdevice, char *dstdevice)
```

#### **Public Attributes**

const mdtm\_node\_t \* mdtmtree

#### Static Public Attributes

static const unsigned cost\_max = (unsigned)-1

#### **Private Member Functions**

```
int mdtm_dijkstra (const mdtm_node_t *spt, char *device, const cpu_cost_t *cpucosts)

void mdtm_getmincost (const mdtm_node_t *tree, mdtm_node_t **minnode, unsigned *mincost)

unsigned mdtm_getnodewithmincost (mdtm_node_t *node)

unsigned mdtm_dijkstra (mdtm_node_t *cpu, const char *device)

void mdtm_updateneighborcosts (mdtm_node_t *node)

int mdtm_calc_costs (const char *device, cpu_cost_t *cpucosts)

void mdtm_resetcostnflag (mdtm_node_t *tree)

void mdtm_print_path (mdtm_node_t *src, mdtm_node_t *dst)

bool mdtm_get_path (mdtm_node_t *src, mdtm_node_t *dst, mdtm_node_t *rpath, int *depth, int *maxdepth)

int mdtm_create_spt (void)

void mdtm_connect_numas (void)

int mdtm_destroy_spt ()
```

#### **Functions**

```
void mdtm_show_version ()

int mdtm_init ()

void mdtm_getcpuaffinity (char *devicename, mdtm_cpuset_t **cpuset)

mdtm_findfilemap (const char *pathname)
Find the file distribution according the file name. More...

void mdtm_destroyfilemap (struct mdtm_FileMap *map)
Release associated resources to mdtm_FileMap object. More...

void mdtm_printpath (char *srcdev, char *dstdev, void *tree)

void mdtm_printschedresult (char *srcdev, char *dstdev, void *tree)

int mdtm_schedule_threads (mdtm_thread_desc_t *thread_descs, int numofdescs)
Schedule and pin user threads on CPU cores. More...

void mdtm_sched_per_single_device (mdtm_thread_desc_t *desc, void *tree)

int mdtm_getpcidevices (struct mdtm_device_s **devices)
```